

## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 FRB-03 COME-00 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00  
PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 105918

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EWWT, EEWT, NR, NAC

SUBJECT: ECONADS: NAC DISCUSSION OF SOVIET MARITIME FLEET

REF: (A) STATE 64728 (B) USNATO 4160 (C) USNATO 3729  
(D) USNATO 12872

1. CONCERNED WASHINGTON AGENCIES OF OPINION THAT CONTINUATION OF DISCUSSIONS REGARDING ECONOMIC/STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS OF SOVIET MERCHANT FLEET BY ECONOMIC COMMITTEE AN ACTIVITY WORTHY OF US SUPPORT. GENERAL SUBJECT IS HIGHLY TOPICAL AND BELIEVE IT IS CONSTRUCTIVE TO DISCUSS STRATEGIC AND ECONOMIC CHALLENGES POSED BY EXPANSION OF SOVIET MARITIME FLEET ACTIVITIES IN AS MANY BODIES AS PRACTICABLE WHILE DECEMBER MEETING, IN EYES OF SEVERAL US EXPERTS, HAD  
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SHORTCOMINGS WHICH WILL BE NOTED BELOW, NATO COULD PROVIDE GOOD FORUM FOR DEALING WITH ECONOMIC/STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS OF SUBJECT AS A COMPLIMENT TO MORE COMMERCIALY ORIENTED WORK ON SOVIET FLEET CURRENTLY BEING UNDERTAKEN BY OECD MARITIME TRANSPORT COMMITTEE. ONE EXAMPLE OF A THEME WHICH SHOULD BE CONTINUED IN THE NATO CONTEXT IS POLITICAL/MILITARY IMPLICATIONS OF SOVIET PREDATORY RATE COMPETITION.

2. SOME US EXPERTS PRESENT AT DECEMBER 1977 SESSION EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT, WITH EXCEPTION OF UK DELEGATION,

PARTICIPATION BY OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN MEETING HAD BEEN SO PASSIVE. IT WAS PARTICULARLY REGRETTED THAT WEST GERMANY, WHOSE OPERATORS HAVE OFTEN BEEN IN THE FOREFRONT OF THOSE COMPLAINING ABOUT SOVIET MARITIME PRACTICES, DID NOT ASSUME AN EVEN MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN THE DISCUSSION. CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OTHER MARITIME NATIONS SUCH AS DENMARK, NORWAY AND HOLLAND WERE ALSO DISAPPOINTING TO US EXPERTS. TO STIMULATE MORE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION BY THESE COUNTRIES IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT THOSE GOVERNMENTS REPRESENTATION SHOULD CONSULT WITH EXPERTS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE PRIVATE SECTORS AND GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES DEALING WITH SHIPPING POLICY (I.E. THEIR REPRESENTATIVE TO THE OECD MTC) PRIOR TO FUTURE DISCUSSIONS ON SUBJECT OF SOVIET MERCHANT FLEET. PORTION OF SUCH A SESSION COULD BE OPEN TO PARTICIPATION BY EXPERTS FROM PRIVATE INDUSTRY. THE LACK OF A RESIDENT EXPERT ON SHIPPING IN GENERAL AND SOVIET SHIPPING IN PARTICULAR AT NATO HEADQUARTERS WAS VIEWED AS BEING PARTIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR FACT THAT SESSION FELL SHORT OF ITS POTENTIAL AND IF RESOURCES PERMIT COMMITTEE MIGHT WISH TO CONSIDER THE EMPLOYMENT OF STAFF MEMBER WITH SUCH KNOWLEDGE.

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3. REGARDING POSSIBLE DATES FOR A FOLLOW-UP SESSION BELIEVE IT IS ESSENTIAL TO ALLOW SUFFICIENT LEAD TIME TO NARROW DOWN THEMES FOR POSSIBLE DISCUSSION WELL IN ADVANCE OF MEETING AND ARRANGE FOR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION BY ALL ECONOMIC COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND POSSIBLY REPRESENTATIVES FROM PRIVATE SECTOR. IT IS THEREFORE UNLIKELY THAT NEXT MEETING COULD BE HELD PRIOR TO LATE 1978 OR EARLY 1979.

4. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE HEARING SUGGESTIONS FROM OTHER ECONOMIC COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION ON THIS TOPIC.

5. IF PRACTICABLE, REQUEST THAT POINTS MADE IN REF A BE MADE ORALLY. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MARINE TRANSPORTATION, POLICIES, MEETING AGENDA, COMMITTEE MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**TAGS:** EWWT, EEWT, NR, UR, US, NAC  
**To:** USNATO  
**Type:** TE  
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